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Issue No 162
AUGUST 2018

And thereby hangs a tail...

THE Twitter meme #dogsatpollingstations is popular, but rather old hat.

Here in the innovative Blackdown Hills, this fine pair are undoubtedly the stars of what must become a new hashtag trend: #dogsatauctions.

But why, and where? Turn to Page 4 for the bigger picture...

BY ROYAL APPROVAL

HONITON'S first Gate to Plate event, on July 18, celebrated East Devon's food and craft producers and was pronounced a resounding success not only by the 6,000 visitors who attended, but also by TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, who flew in specially to meet around 60 of the district's most innovative and creative traders.

As well as meeting local representatives, the Royal couple visited the stands, taking the time to speak to traders and sampling a wide variety of wares on offer.

Before departing, a birthday cake made by local baker Cathryn McCollum was presented to the Prince for his 70th birthday.

A gift of locally-produced gin and tonic was given to the Duchess, who celebrated her birthday the day before

From traditional fare to the most creative, there was something for everyone to taste and buy at this market, which stallholders hope will become an annual event for the town. Entertainment on the day included Honiton Town Band, Honiton Youth Orchestra and the children's choir from Honiton's Littletown Primary Academy School.

The event was organised by East Devon District Council's Economic Development team, with support from Honiton Town Council and Taste of the West, the largest independent regional food group in the UK.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall photographed by Naomi Curtis.

Grub's up! HRH The Prince of Wales is offered lemon cake with ants at the Yumbugs stall. Photo courtesy of East Devon District Council.

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WEST BUCKLAND	Blackdown Garden Centre Willowbrook Nursery
YARCOMBE	The Belfry Hilltop Motors

In summary, it was a successful Summer fair for St Mary's

DESPITE televised competition from the World Cup and Wimbledon, St Mary's Summer Fair attracted a steady stream of visitors throughout the afternoon raising £1,350 with the local Scout group raising further still for their funds.

Recognising this was a special day for football fans, some stalls were decorated in national flags and bunting.

Held at the village recreation field, one of the attractions was a locally-built replica of a beautiful Gipsy caravan. The Enigma Morris Dancers, dressed in black and turquoise not only entertained but also encouraged members of the public to join in causing much laughter as they attempted the dances.

With the overwhelming heat the cake and savouries stall found the shadiest spot under chestnut trees with the plant stall protected by gazebos which along with colourful sunshades helped keep the sun off many other stallholders.

The event was opened by the Rev John Stone who spent the afternoon visiting stalls and chatting to those present. Members of the Parish Council were also on hand to discuss local matters.

Hemyock Scout Group put on a display of various scouting activities and organised the barbecue, with church members kept busy providing cream teas as visitors sought shelter from the extreme heat under a tent provide by the Scouts.

Children were thrilled to use a bouncy castle which was sited in the shade as well as well as enjoying spending pocket money on toys and crafts.

As the afternoon progressed cheers could be heard coming from the flats alongside the field ensuring stallholders and visitors alike that England had won their game.

Stall holders would like to thank the various individuals and businesses who donated goods to help make this year's fair a great success.

BD

Former Taunton Deane mayor dies

A FORMER student at Wellington School who went on to become Mayor of Taunton Deane has died at the age of 60.

Ken Hayward was a Conservative district councillor for two terms and was elected mayor four years after being voted into Deane House.

As Mayor he completed 560 engagements, from opening fetes to visiting Buckingham Palace with his wife Mary.

Mr Hayward was born in Taunton, the youngest of six children, although one sister died in infancy. The family farmed in Brompton Ralph before moving to Trull.

He attended Wellington School where he met lifelong friend Shaun Chafey, who introduced him to Mary.

The couple were engaged within three weeks and married in February, 1979, setting up home in Wellington and having two sons, Bradley and William.

He was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer in February, 2017, undergoing six rounds of chemotherapy.

During this time, the couple renewed their vows, cruised the western Mediterranean and visited the Canary Islands.

The present Mayor Cllr Catherine Herbert said: "Ken was a great colleague. He was always looking for ways to help and support the community."

His funeral was held on July 15.

For those in peril on the sea, and their families at home

"Home is the sailor, home from the sea..."

SEA Sunday was commemorated at St Mary's Church Hemyock with a service led by the Lay team wand a talk given by Rev Chris Hudson.

The day recognises work done by The Mission to Seafarers who are committed to helping, in various ways, the 1.5 million who work at sea often in conditions that are dangerous and lonely frequently not seeing family for very long periods. There are cases when crews are not paid for many months and conditions on board appalling.

A display at the church contained various information leaflets and photos plus a memorial by two members of the congregation to their grandfather, a merchant seaman and later a trawlerman, as well as a cousin who had been the engineer on Padstow (Cornwall) lifeboat.

A retiring collection raised £200 for the charity.

For more information, visit www.missiontoseafarers.org.

Royal couple visit Honiton Gate to Plate

Clockwise from top left: 1.TRH unaware of some opportunistic photobombing promoting *The Wind in the Willows* at The Beehive; 2. crowds cheering farewell as TRH depart; 3. The Prince of Wales chatting to a stallholder. Photos1 & 2 courtesy of East Devon District Council, and 3 by Naomi Curtis.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chris and Sarah Jones of Bloomberry Juice from Clyst Hydon, said it had been a lovely event and very well organised. "Prince Charles stopped by and tried a sample of our Cloud Lime Juice and was very impressed. He was very interested in the ingredients we used."

The Duchess sampled a beef dumpling from Rupert Moon of The Earl of Gravy Dumpling House, based in Exmouth. Rupert said: "I heard her murmur 'delicious' and that made my day!

"This has been a fantastic event and everyone has been so upbeat and we've sold out."

HRH also tried out the rhubarb and ginger ice cream from Otter Valley. Kellie Cornish who served her, said: "There's been a great atmosphere here today and we've loved the variety of stallholders and so have the public. They haven't stopped telling us all day how much they've enjoyed it."

Mark Tredwin, Honiton Town Council Clerk, said:

"It has been a great honour for Honiton to host Their Royal Highnesses at the Gate to Plate event. A huge amount of organisation went into making this such a success.

"We are sure that the various stall holders enjoyed a very positive experience in being able to showcase their wares to the all the visitors. We look forward to welcoming everybody back to Honiton in the future."

For more information, search for #HonitonGateToPlate or visit @HonitonGateToPlate on Facebook.

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Everything stops for tea

THE eighth Annual Cream Tea Afternoon at Prings Farm, Madford, Hemyock was held recently, and what a success it was.

The weather was tremendous for this quintessentially English affair, and with tea served in vintage china, scones generously loaded with cream and jam and delicious cakes it made for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The tables were laid, the marquees and bunting were up, the pianist played throughout, the plant and cake stalls were beautifully presented and the raffle tickets sold aplenty.

This wonderful afternoon culminated with an auction of donations ranging from fishing tickets, food hampers, Land Rover experience vouchers, a bird box, magnificent cakes and much, much more all kindly donated by local businesses, friends and supporters.

One of the organisers, Sara Machin, said "Of the £3,762.60 raised, £500 will go to Holy Trinity Church, Dunkeswell Abbey, our beautiful local church, and the remainder will be split between local cancer charities."

Sara paid tribute to all involved, and gave a mention in despatches for Judy Barton of Prings Farm, the main organiser and hostess of the event.

This truly is a community event with so many wonderful people offering practical help (both on the day and before), donations and time to make this experience the success that it is, along with the many hundreds of people who came on the day from far and wide to support us, sampling the tea cakes and soaking up the atmosphere.

It is a massive £3,762.60 that was raised and well thank you all.

Janice Bawler/Sara Machin (who also supplied the photographs).

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Heritage open day at Hemyock Castle

ADVANCE notice of diary dates for September, which are part of an England-wide series of some 5,000 free heritage events.

In 2018, these events will be over the weekends of September 6 to 9 and 13 to 16, and there are events within the Blackdown Hills and nearby towns.

Some sites open specially; some host special exhibitions or tours; and others waive any usual entrance fee.

Advance booking is required for some events, but not for many others, and for full information. For the full directory of events, see www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting.

Events in the Blackdown Hills include those at Hemyock Castle

Visitors to the castle's event can view the remains of the Mediaeval towers, walls, and moat. There will also be special displays for two of this year's themes: Extraordinary Women, celebrating 100 years of Women's Suffrage; and European Year of Cultural Heritage. See www.hemyockcastle.uk/herit/heritage.html for more information.

One of Hemyock's Extraordinary Women featured will be Mrs Joanne Illery.

She successfully petitioned the courts and Parliament for years to obtain compensation because her husband was hanged when the Royalists captured Hemyock Castle during the English Civil War in 1643-44.

Another special display will use artefacts found at Hemyock Castle to demonstrate centuries of close links with continental Europe for trade, people, and ideas.

Hemyock Castle will be open on Sunday, September 9 from 2pm to 5pm. There is free entry for the Heritage Open Day, free parking, and no booking required.

NB The castle will NOT be open on Sunday, September 16.

The gatehouse of the castle.

Send your events to blackdowns @tindlenews.co.uk

Barbecue and endangered species on menu for Hemyock WI

IN June, Lyn Taylor welcomed members who had come for a talk about 'Endangered Species', but in July it was a visit to a farm in Payhembury with just cattle, sheep and 12 dogs.

The weather was perfect for such an evening and finished with an excellent barbecue.

On July 7, there was an evening invitation to supper at Sandra's house in Withy Lane, which included a competition for the prettiest cup and saucer.

On September 4, members will be back in Forbes Lounge for an evening entitled 'The Beauty Annexe'. There will be the usual competition for the favourite flower, and the prettiest mirror.

Hemyock WI meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. With a reading group and a dining group, there is always something going on.

More details from the president, Lynn Taylor, on 01823 680104. **BC**

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We'll eat again... for D-Day commemoration

AT its meeting on June 7, the members of Smeatharpe WI dressed in 1940s outfits and remembered the events of D-Day.

Volunteers had been given sealed envelopes containing recipes from 1942 to recreate for a ration-book bring-and-share supper. These included Lord Woolton's Pie, carrot casserole, potato pudding and Prune Delicacy, and despite earlier reservations, the dishes were all filling and tasty. After supper Elaine Ravenscroft entertained the group with songs from the era, everyone joined in with words and actions, and had great fun. This year's summer outing on June 19 was to Cockington and Torquay.

It was a day of perfect weather for a walk through the water meadows to the lovely grounds and craft workshops of Cockington Court, and for fish and chips on Torquay sea front.

The July meeting saw a visit from David Follett and Tessie representing the charity Canine Partners, which trains assistance dogs so disabled people can continue to live independent lives.

David broke his neck in three places following a road traffic accident and now uses a wheelchair so five-year-old Tessie helps him by opening doors, fetching items or picking them up, passing his wallet to supermarket cashiers and in many other ways. It was hugely impressive to see the difference such a highly-trained animal can make to someone's life. David himself is very impressive; he is ranked 25th in the world as a wheelchair badminton player and hopes to make it to the Paralympics when this becomes an Olympic sport in 2020. We wish him well.

The next few weeks will see members going to Otter Nurseries for retail therapy and cream teas, and a full day visiting Bournemouth to take in a theatre production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

The August meeting will be on Thursday 9 August at 7.30pm at Smeatharpe Village Hall when Ian White will be giving a talk called 'Your Captain Speaking' about his life as a commercial pilot. Visitors are always welcome at a cost of £4, contact the Secretary Virginia Roach on 01823 601489 for further details.

Taking the Tarka Trail to Pinkery Pond

IT was a beautiful morning, not a cloud in the brilliant blue sky and already warm at 8am.

The day heralded the start of the annual Hemyock Scouts' Dartmoor hike; this however was a hike with a difference as firstly it was not Dartmoor we were going to but Exmoor, and secondly, it finished at Pinkery Pond.

A minibus of Scouts, Explorers, leaders, and parent helpers (to say nothing of the dog, Willow) set off early and parked up just past Simonsbath.

The walk was paced at an easy amble following a circular walk via Mole's Chamber, Edgerley Stone, onto the Tarka Trail up to Wood Barrow Gate.

The day was sunny and hot, and many rest stops were made to refuel and rehydrate.

We finally dropped down to Pinkery Pond which is a stunning peat-based lake. Everybody quickly donned their swimming togs and jumped in with Karl heroically abstaining as life-guard look out.

The water was amazingly warm, but intermingles with colder spots. The Scouts explored the overflow tunnel which was cut into the rocks at the side of the lake and spent the afternoon swimming and having their picnic lunches.

We then hiked the short distance back to the minibus before setting off back home to Hemyock with one final pit-stop at the Exford Tearooms for delicious Devon ice-creams.

The minibus, hired from Blackdown Hills Minibus, (blackdownbus@gmail.com) was very comfortable and all the Scouts fell asleep on the journey home.

What a lovely way to enjoy the hot weather. **JB**

blackdowns@tindlenews.co.uk

Gardening group goes gallivanting

SOME 40 garden lovers from Hemyock Gardeners' Association have recently returned from their 2018 summer trip.

The party went by charabanc from Hemyock to visit five gardens; four were in Cornwall and the last was in North Devon.

The first was Moyclare Gardens near Liskeard. Next came a visit to Lanhydrock House and Gardens followed by the first of two nights at the Lanhydrock Golf and Country Club Hotel.

The next day visits were made to Trewithan Gardens before moving to St Austell to explore the Pinetum Gardens.

The last garden was the RHS Rosemoor in North Devon. By this time the hot dry days had given way to some very heavy rainfalls.

Thanks were given to the organisers of yet another successful weekend. **GF**

Blackdown Support Group holds AGM

OFFICERS of Blackdown Support Group welcomed many of its friends, volunteers, and supporters to the annual general meeting which was held in July at Throgmorton Hall in Dunkeswell.

Following reports from BSG coordinator Elizabeth McNabb, chair Sarah Folland, and treasurer Nicky Summerfield, the accounts were presented, and those attending took part in a raffle.

There was also light entertainment courtesy of the Dunkeswell Hand Bell Ringers and a delicious supper of cheese and wine.

Thanks to all those who were able to join us, and for those who were not, minutes of the meeting, the annual accounts and Trustees' Report will be available on www.blackdownsupportgroup.org.uk. **EMcN**

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Volunteer cook Margaret hangs up her ladle after nearly 25 years

IT was the end of an era at the Rosemary Lane Lunch Club last month when guests and helpers bade a sad farewell to Margaret Gibbings, a volunteer cook for the lunch club.

Margaret has been volunteering at the club – which is a joint endeavour of the Blackdown Support Group (BSG) and the Rosemary Lane Chapel – for 24 years and 10 months.

A spokesperson said: "Her delicious food has been appreciated over the years by many local people who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to go out and enjoy a meal with friends.

"The Rosemary Lane Lunch Club will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary in October 2018 and Margaret has been involved from the very beginning, so we cannot thank her enough for her commitment, dedication and cheerfulness, for the food she has so lovingly prepared and the enjoyment she has given to so many. Thank you Margaret."

Veteran volunteer cook Margaret is not the only one moving on.

After seven years of cooking for the members of the BSG Hemyock Lunch Club, Barbara England recently decided to call it a day and have more time for herself and Milo.

As well as cooking, Barbara drew up the menus, sourced the ingredients (often at low prices) and did a lot of preparation at home before each lunch. The spokesperson said: "Christmas lunch for over 40 people must be a daunting prospect, but the result was always a marvellous spread for all. Pam Lowman, who had been with Barbara throughout this period also took the decision to stand down.

"The two ladies will be missed by all for their commitment, loyalty and devotion to the people of Hemyock.

"Replacing someone who has such a reputation is always difficult but we have been very lucky to secure the services of Mary Pepper.

"Mary has been involved with catering for many years and says that she loves cooking, which is just as well!"

Mary cooked her first Lunch Club lunch of roast gammon followed by strawberries and meringue earlier in July and by all reports, her guests thoroughly enjoyed it.

Thanks were also made to the kitchen team of Joan, Jonathan, new volunteers Carrol and Caroline, as well as our front of house team Christine, Carol-Ann and Ursula.

The BSG spokesperson added: "We would also like to thank Geoff, Mel, and the team at The Catherine Wheel who provided us with delicious two-course lunches at the pub in the interim period."

Anyone interested in attending one of the lunch clubs, which take place in Culmstock, Rosemary Lane and Hemyock, should contact the BSG office on 01823 681036.

EMcN

From left: Jonathan Meads; Carrol Dexter; Mary Pepper; Caroline Anderson; and Joan Fewtrell.

Garden party raises hundreds of pounds

A GOOD crowd of about 100 people attended an open garden party at Glebe Farm, home of Brian and Mary Smith, one Saturday afternoon recently all enjoying a tour of the garden and relaxing under the gazebos eating cream teas.

There were garden games for the children and the young at heart, a plant stall, and a raffle to while away the time. Maggie's Mix and the All-sorts played and sung garden-orientated songs during the afternoon many of which could be sung by the audience.

Supplies of scones, cream and jam with cakes, tea, coffee and squash were replenished by teams of willing helpers all through the afternoon and washers up appeared from nowhere to replace crockery as required.

Although the cream teas were 'free' generous donations together with monies from the plants and raffle amounted to around £1000.00. This is to be added to the Baptist Chapel Reading Room Project which is now within sight of completion.

From a tumbledown ruin, it has risen from the ashes to a compact residence thanks to the dedicated care of the trustees and accomplished local builders.

Lesley Sutton

So many roses...

As pretty as a picture. Photograph by Jackie Nicholls.

A RECENT flower-arranging workshop held at Combe St Nicholas Village Hall inspired numerous local ladies to make a contemporary bowl of roses.

They watched a step-by-step demonstration then it was their turn to get down to some 'floral fun'.

Sara Wayland said: "Simple things can look really good and I like simple things.

"I was pleased with my design and confident I could repeat it; the hints and tips were great."

"This was only my second workshop, I learnt a lot and really enjoyed it, everyone was very friendly," added Sue Dexter.

Jackie Nicholls of Ashville Design, who ran the workshop, said: "This was a very simple modern-day design for a class who were absolutely full of enthusiasm about flowers.

"Even if you don't know a freesia from a gladiolus, this just goes to prove that you don't need any experience to produce a fabulous floral arrangement.

"I really can't think of a nicer way to bring sunshine into someone's life; arranging flowers always does it.

"Well done ladies."

JN

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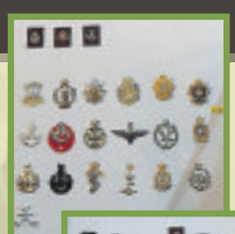

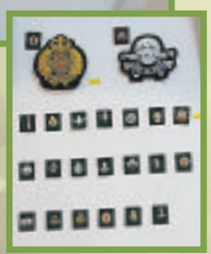

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Festivals & Shows
in and around the Blackdown Hills

At last, the 128th Honiton show is here!

THE Honiton & District Agricultural Association holds its 128th show on Thursday, August 2, 2018.

The 2018 main ring will be buzzing with activity including Bolddog Lings Freestyle Motocross Team and The Sheep Show.

The Sheep Show is a humorous show all about sheep. Highlights include sheep shearing and dancing sheep.

Visitors can meet Sheridan the Sheepdog and Pumpkin the Pony, described as "an enchanting and magical duo".

Sheridan rides his remotely-controlled tricycle and stops to chat to amazed audiences.

A very exciting attraction is making a flying visit to Honiton: two exhilarating aerobatic displays performed by Viperaerobatics flying the Pitts biplane.

The lower field incorporates all that is countryside with hurdle making, ferret racing, a blacksmiths' guild, 100 vintage tractors, The West of England Hound Show, the BHBA Marquee showcasing the businesses within the Blackdown Hills, and surrounding market towns and villages.

There is a dog show – pedigree and fun classes – Professor Twistopher's Punch and Judy show, and donkey rides.

If chickens are your interest, then there a poultry show and sale.

The Rare Breed Survival Trust (RBST) Devon Support Group – which has been around in the county for more than 25 years – will also attend.

A spokesperson said: "We are dedicated to breeders and enthusiasts of our rare and native breeds here in Devon.

"We want to reach the whole of Devon to educate and inspire you to know of the rare and native breeds in Devon, so much so that we attend colleges and schools to inspire and educate our next generation.

"We want to hear from those of you who are dedicated to breeding and helping our rare and native breeds.

"Please come and talk and meet us at the show or feel free to contact Kim Brook, Secretary, at kim@kbrook.co.uk or on 01566 783232, or John Mills, Chairman, on 01805 804494."

No country show is complete without food, and the food hall will be bursting with local produce and food courts to tickle every taste bud.

New for 2018 is The Honiton Show Bake Off, enter our baking competition; make a "Honiton Show Stopper" or a cake for the President of the Show, we have classes for the under 11's too.

We have over 400 trade stands, which means shopping and interest for all.

The great news is we are holding our admission charges for 2018 so advance tickets are just £14.50 for a whole day of entertainment.

For further details on the show, trade enquires, schedules, or details on becoming a member of the Association, please contact the secretary on 01404 41794 follow us on Twitter @honiton-show1890.

CB

Honiton Agricultural Show

Hosts to The West of England Hound Show

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Festivals & Shows
in and around the Blackdown Hills

Melplash Agricultural Show: a celebration of rural life and a treat for all the family

THE Melplash Show is the showcase event for farming, countryside and rural life, and brings together the very best of West Dorset with animals, food, fun and entertainment.

With agriculture still very much at the heart of the Show, there is an extensive range of competitive events for local farmers to showcase what they do in the numerous cattle, sheep, pigs and farm produce classes.

For the equine lover there is an outstanding selection of horse and pony classes. For everyone else, there is a host of horticultural, home produce and handicraft classes for the whole family to enter including lots of children's competitions, which are free to enter.

In the Toolstation Main Ring this year the Society is excited to welcome The Cavalry of Heroes. Marking the 100-year anniversary of World War One, they will be performing a special show remembering the role that the horses and soldiers played in The Great War.

Other main ring attractions throughout the day include heavy horse classes, horse jumping, the parade of hounds and beagles and of course the highlight, the Grand Parade of winning animals and the presentations of the top prizes.

For the younger generation there is a packed programme. In the Discover Farming marquee children can milk a cow, hold baby chicks, grind wheat and make pancakes.

The new Explore Farming tent is full of experiences: put on a virtual reality headset and be on a tractor, combine harvester or in a milking parlour; fly a drone simulator: build a mini steel framed barn or look down a microscope at creatures that devastate our crops or harm our animals.

Tractor Ted is also visiting for the first time.

Many of the firm favourites are back too. In the Kitson and Trotman countryside area are falconry, ferret and terrier racing, ducks and rural crafts; the Porter Dodson Food Hall will once again be bursting with local foodie treats; in the cookery theatre, local chefs will be cooking up a storm including Alan Fryer from the George, Bridport and Philip Frampton from Frampton's Butchers who are joining forces to show how to prepare and cook cuts of meat for the table.

Alongside there will be over 350 exhibitors and trade stands offering a wide range of products and produce from locally produced food and crafts to tractors… and plenty in between.

With the gates opening at 8am and closing at 6 pm, visitors of all ages are guaranteed a full day's entertainment.

All children 16 years and under can attend the Show for free. Adult tickets on the day are £16, but £14 in advance, and advance tickets can be bought online or from local venues.

There is free parking off the A35 and free buses running throughout the day (see timetables online), from Lyme Regis stopping at bus stops in Charmouth, Chideock and Bridport; from the Park & Rides operating off the Symondsbury to Bridport road (B3162) and off the Burton Bradstock to Bridport road (B3157).

To keep up-to-date, visit www.melplashshow.co.uk or follow Melplash Show on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Send your news to blackdowns@tindlenews.co.uk.

what's on in and around the Blackdown Hills

Prosecco Bar adds extra sparkle to the Blackdown Hills Beer & Music Festival

MAKE a date for the Blackdown Hills Beer & Music Festival on August 10 and 11 August.

A spokesperson said: "All our profits go to paying for music teaching and instruments in local schools and groups, so come along and have a great weekend so we can continue our good work."

The line up includes Los Albertos headlining the Friday night and The Skaravan Club closing the festival on Saturday.

"You can see the full line up on our website, book tickets at early-bird prices, and find out everything else you need to know," continued the spokesperson.

"We have loads of kids entertainment – all free – on Saturday afternoon so bring the family, soak up the atmosphere and enjoy a day in the Blackdown Hills.

"You might even want to try your luck at our famous Rodeo Bull Challenge.

Appropriately enough for a beer festival, their will be a wide selection of real ales, lagers, local ciders, flavoured ciders, and wine available.

"And making its début this year will be the Prosecco and Gin Bar.

"There are also soft drinks available, so there really is something for everyone."

To accompany the drinks, will be serving a wide and varied selection of good, locally sourced food, including vegetarian options.

Tickets can be bought online in advance from www.blackdownbeerfestival.co.uk or on the gate.

"Camping is also available, and for more information check our FAQ section on the website or email us at info@blackdownbeerfestival.co.uk.

"So help support our cause and get your tickets now. "See you there!"

Blackdown Food and Craft Fayre returns

NOW in its fourth year, this event showcases the very best of what the wonderful Blackdown Hills has to offer.

National award-winning food and beverage producers, local artisans demonstrating their skills and selling their wares, live music and lots and lots of free samples to savour.

There will also be a bar stocking Tricky and Taunton ciders, Black Tor Brewery real ales and Bloomsbury fruit juices, the first-rate Moorbeams Farm free range local meats and a barbecue, lots of children's activities to keep the little ones entertained and all washed down with that special Blackdown Hills spirit.

Last year – held in glorious sunshine (more ordered for this year) – was a huge success attracting over 700 visitors and around 30 stallholders.

The Fayre this year is on Sunday, August 26 (August Bank Holiday weekend) and will take place at Churchinford Village Hall (opposite the shop) with gates opening at 12 noon.

Cream teas will be served from midday until 4pm, and there is provision for parking in a nearby field, so congestion in the main street is avoided.

The money raised last year, including that from the raffle and donations, was given to the local volunteer-run community shop and Churchinford Pre-School.

Worthy causes both so please come along and show your support and enjoy a great day out.

Any enquiries please contact Churchinford & District Community Shop on 01823 601026. Also look on Facebook for @BlackdownFoodandCraftfayre.

Entry is free. **SBM**

Make a date for the Blackdowns Repair Café at Hemyock Parish Hall

THE next three dates – one at the tail end of July – for the Blackdowns Repair Café have been announced.

Get your skates on (or take them along if they need fixing) for the first, which is on Saturday, July 28 at Hemyock Parish Hall from 10am to 12 noon.

The next is on Saturday, September 22 at the same time and at the same venue.

The third is scheduled for Saturday, November 24, and is likely to be at Hemyock Parish Hall, although confirmation will be made closer to the time.

Organiser and driving force behind the scheme, which numbers 100-odd in the UK and some 1,500 worldwide, Trisha Comrie said: "Items can include bicycles, electronic gadgets, clothes, fabrics, small items of furniture, ceramics, electrical goods, and garden equipment.

"The service is free, but donations are welcomed, as are more volunteers."

For more information, contact Trisha on 01823 602908, trishacomrie@gmail. com, or search for RepairCafeBlackdowns on Facebook.

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News from the Blackdown Hills Riding Club

Photos courtesy of Tricia Budd, BHRC Secretary.

BLACKDOWN Hills Riding Club (BHRC) was founded approximately 40 years ago.

Formed by a small group of people wanting to create a friendly, happy club for families, it bridged a gap for adults and those who could not afford to join the Pony Club, but wanted to socialise and compete at a basic level.

That ethos remains to this day. The club – run by a motivated and friendly committee – endeavors to put on a variety of events for their member's needs.

We have two very experienced and patient instructors teaching both flat-work and jumping, and we are currently in the middle of our Summer Dressage League which is in its second season & proving very popular.

At the end of the month, we will running our Summer camp which has become one of biggest get-togethers of members.

Run over two days, it really is a highlight of the riding club year.

Flatwork training, show jumping, stable management and an evening hack to the local pub. The weekend finishes with a members-only dressage competition, and a cream tea while the awards are made.

On August 19, BHRC will hold its Charity Dressage Day. This year, all proceeds go the Retired Greyhound Trust and Sirius Dog Sanctuary.

This competition includes a dressage to music class and we like to encourage fancy dress.

On September 16, we stick with the dressage to music theme when we have our Strictly Dressage competition. In addition, this year we will also include some preliminary classes for those wanting further classes to enter.

If you are interested in joining our club or entering any of our competitions, you can find details at

www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk, or visit www.facebook.com/blackdownhillsridingclub.

We would love to meet you and your equine friend.

Kate Hopper, BHRC Chair.

Small of body, big of heart: terrier racing returns to Yarcombe this month

ON Saturday, August 4, Yarcombe will host its annual terrier racing event when more than 60 terriers will compete in eight races in what has become a very popular gathering of owners and their dogs from as far away as 100 miles from this village.

Such is the attraction of the event that some people have entered their terriers while they have taken a week's holiday nearby.

From an idea by locals John Salter and Frank Bond, which saw the first races held in 1975, the event has been held each year since.

It now includes a variety of stalls, a tote, as well A hot and cold food and a well stocked bar, and other facilities attracting more than 700 people.

Together, they have raised more than £7,000 in 2016 and 2017 for the church and local organisations.

The gates open at 5pm, with the first race at 5 30 pm and children are welcome to join in the fun.

There is plenty of free car parking at EX14 9BN, which will be signposted from the A30 in the centre of Yarcombe, Entry is £5 with children under 12 free.

If anyone wishes to enter their terrier for the races it is not too late to contact Chris on yarcombe.racing@gmail.com.

CS

George Pidgeon just about to start a race in a photograph by Catherine Derryman from one of her books on the subject.

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Young Farmers do it in their wellies... and in their communities

THE National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs is part of a massive network of rural youth organisations in the UK. Yarcombe and District YFC is a club situated on the south edge of the Blackdown hills in Devon, with over 80 current members.

We get involved with and take part in various events throughout the year.

From sports activities and entertains, to hosting our annual show and sale of livestock there is lots to do. Our chosen charities to support this year, 2017-2018, are the Devon Freewheelers and Bristol Children's Hospital neuroscience ward.

Yarcombe and District Young Farmers Club

June was a quieter month for Yarcombe YFC, with members participating in their own farming activities and enjoying the glorious sunshine that we have been having.

Eleven members went to Clip 'n' Climb rock climbing in Exeter in June, where they were taught to use all the climbing wall facilities and harnesses. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

We held our annual water party on June 29, and this year with the added extra of a warm water pool. With over 460 people supporting our event we made a rough profit of £4,500 to go towards our chosen charities, Devon Freewheelers and Bristol Children's Hospital.

A massive thank you to everyone that helped us with this success, our club leaders and advisory and particularly the Barnes' family for hosting the event. We look forward to our annual foam party on August 10.

Congratulations to two of our senior members, Christina Turner and James Waller who tied the knot at Yarcombe Church on June 16. We wish them a lifetime of happiness.

Upcoming events:

July 29 – Charity Cream Tea at Birch Oak Farm, Yarcombe, EX14 9AF, starting at 2pm.

August 2– Honiton Show

August 4 – Honiton YFC Twilight Ball and Yarcombe Terrier Races

August 10 – Yarcombe YFC Foam Party at Reads Hill, Chardstock

August 27 – Yarcombe YFC Raft Race

LJ

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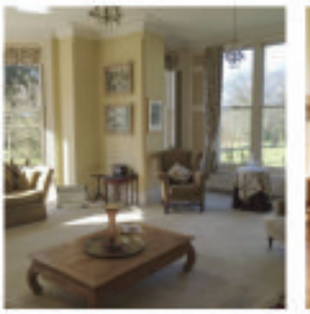

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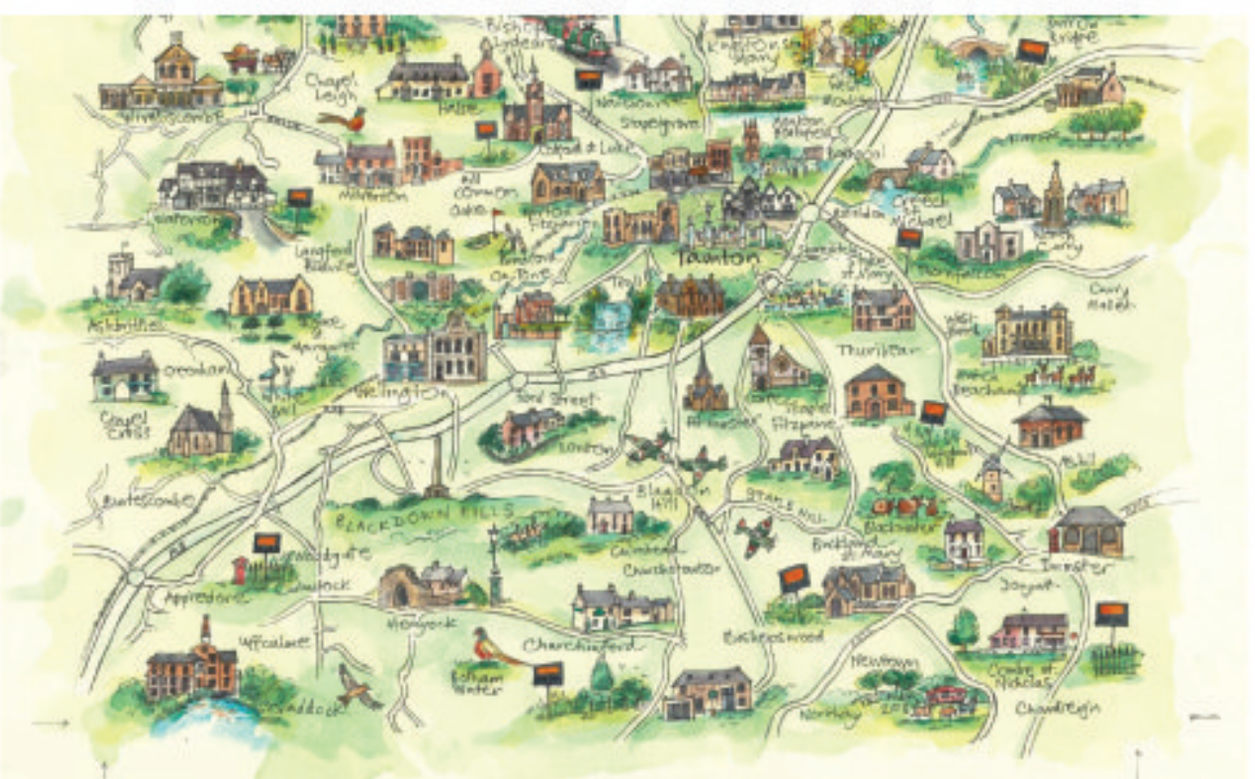

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